

ELLIS - Application No. 09/085,755

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 9-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-41 presently stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicant has amended claim 9 herein to recite important aspects of the present invention not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Claims 23 and 24 are canceled herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-22 and 25-41 are in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, and their reconsideration for allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action mailed July 17, 2002, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 9-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,889,989 to Robertazzi et al. ("Robertazzi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,592,376 to Hodroff ("Hodroff").

However, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the reference(s) must teach or suggest all limitations of the claim. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1970). Applicant has amended claim 9 to recite limitations not taught or suggested by either Robertazzi or Hodroff.

In particular, neither Robertazzi nor Hodroff teach, disclose or suggest a system in which at least one of the personal computers includes a wireless network connection capable of coupling the personal computers to one or more of the other personal computers via the network, and in which at least one of the personal computers includes a microchip having a microprocessor with at least a control unit and one or more processing units the control unit including means for a user of the personal computer to control the one or more processing units, and in which the microchip further provides active configuration of one or more circuits of the microchip, as recited in amended claim 9.

Therefore, claim 9 as amended is patentable over either Robertazzi or Hodroff, taken alone or in combination, as are claims 10-22 and 25-41 which depend therefrom, and also recite additional important features therein. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

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Unless expressly stated otherwise herein, nothing contained in this amendment and response is to be construed as a narrowing amendment made for purposes related to patentability.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 9-22 and 25-41 are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Petition for Extension for Response within one month accompanies this reply. Authorization to the Commissioner to charge the fees for the RCE and the extension for response to Applicant's attorney's deposit account is submitted herewith.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 23 and 24.

Please amend the claims as follows:

9. (Twice Amended) A system[network server computer for a network of computers], comprising:

a server computer;

at least two personal computers connected to the server computer through a network;

the server computer having a first mechanism for said [network ]server computer to function as a master in a shared processing operation involving the at least two personal computers [connected to said network server computer through the network and with ]at least portions of said personal computers functioning as slaves to said master;

at least one of the personal computers including a wireless network connection capable of coupling the personal computers to one or more of the other personal computers via the network; and

at least one of the personal computers including a microchip having a microprocessor with at least a control unit and one or more processing units, the control unit including means for a user of the personal computer to control the one or more processing units;

wherein the microchip further provides active configuration of one or more circuits of the microchip;

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the server computer having a second mechanism [for said master network server computer] to subdivide said shared processing operation into a plurality of parts and to send one of said parts to each of said slaves for processing by said slaves; and

a compensation determining mechanism to determine compensation for network services provided by said personal computers in said shared processing operation, wherein

said compensation determining mechanism determines a net charge based on a difference between a monitored provision to said network of a shared processing operation by one of said personal computers and a monitored use of said network services by said one personal computer,

said [network ]server computer is configured to receive a measure of a provision of network services both to and by said one of said personal computers from a monitoring mechanism, and

said master [network ]server computer is configured to receive processing results sent back to said master [network ]server computer when the operation is completed by said slaves.

10. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said compensation includes a financial charge.

11. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said [network ]server computer provides network services, including connection functions, which include providing access by at least one of said personal computers to said network.

12. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said compensation includes a charge for access to said network by one of said personal computers.

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13. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said charge for said one personal computer is for a time period based on a time difference between the monitored provision to said network of said shared processing operation by said one personal computer for said time period and use of said network services by said one personal computer during said time period.

14. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said charge for said one personal computer is based on a difference between the monitored provision to said network of said shared processing operation by said one personal computer as measured by data throughput and use of said network services by said one personal computer also as measured by the data throughput.

15. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said compensation includes providing access by at least one of said personal computers to said network.

16. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 9, wherein said charge is zero.

17. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 11, wherein said network includes an Internet which is utilized to provide said shared computer processing resources.

18. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 17, wherein said network includes a World Wide Web which is utilized to provide said shared computer processing resources.

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19. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 17, wherein said [network ]server computer is operated by an internet service provider.

20. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said network includes a World Wide Web which is utilized to provide said shared computer processing resources.

21. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein at least one of said personal computers includes an optical fiber connection directly from said at least one personal computer to said [network ]server computer.

22. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein at least one of said personal computers includes a wireless connection from said at least one computer to said [network ]server computer.

25. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with said at least one personal computer being substantially contained in a single microchip.

26. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with said at least one personal computer being substantially contained in a single microchip with a plurality of microprocessors.

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27. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said shared processing operation includes at least one of parallel processing, multi-processing, and multi-tasking.

28. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with at least one of said personal computers including a connection from said at least one personal computer to said network, said connection having a speed of data transmission that is greater than a peak data processing speed of said at least one personal computer.

29. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with at least one of said personal computers including a transponder so that said at least one personal computer can determine a closest other of said personal computers that is idle.

30. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate such that a user of a personal computer retains preemptive control of all components of said personal computer.

31. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with at least one personal computer when said personal computer is idled by a user of said personal computer.

32. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with at least a part of at least one of said

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personal computers functioning as a master in a shared operation with another of said personal computers in said network.

33. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with at least a part of at least one of said personal computers functioning as a slave in a shared operation with another of said personal computers in said network.

34. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with a peer-to-peer architecture.

35. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with said at least one microprocessor of said at least one personal computer being controlled by a user of said at least one personal computer through said user's operation of a wireless controller.

36. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein said [network ]server computer is configured to operate with said provision and said use by said one personal computer occurring substantially simultaneously in a multitasking mode.

37. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 19, wherein:  
a firewall is configured to operate in at least one of said personal computers, said at least one personal computer being configured to operate with other computers connected in a network;

said at least one personal computer includes at least one microprocessor and at least two memory hardware components;

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said firewall is further configured to deny access to at least a first memory hardware component of said at least one personal computer by at least one of said other computers during a shared operation involving said personal computer and said at least one of said other computers of said network; and

said firewall is further configured to allow access to at least a second memory hardware component of said at least one personal computer by said at least one of said other computers of said network during said shared operation.

38. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 37, wherein said firewall is configured to deny access to at least a first memory hardware component of said at least one personal computer by said other computers of said network during a shared operation involving said personal computer and at least one of said other computers of said network.

39. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 37, wherein said firewall is configured to allow access to at least a second memory hardware component of said at least one personal computer by said other computers of said network during said shared operation.

40. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 39, wherein said firewall is configured to deny access to at least said second memory hardware component of said at least one personal computer by a user of said personal computer during said shared operation.

41. (Amended) The system[network server computer] of claim 38, wherein said second memory hardware component is a second hard drive of said at least one personal computer.